

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 666

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY 1774

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 02190

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC, ACP, AO, ZA, CG

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, APRIL 1-2: ZAIRE, ZAMBIA
AND ANGOLA

REF: LUXEMBOURG 201

1. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH PERM DEL SOURCE THE UK HAD
INTENDED TO FOLLOW UP IN THE COUNCIL THE DISCUSSIONS
REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA WHICH
TOOK PLACE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS POLITICAL COOPER-
ATION MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG FEBRUARY 23-24 (REFTEL).
HOWEVER, TIME DID NOT PERMIT UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

CALLAGHAN TO RAISE THE ISDUE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE.
AT A MEETING OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES THE
AFTERNOON OF MARCH 2, UK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
SIR DONALD MAITLAND READ OUT THE STATEMENT WHICH
CALLAGHAN HAD INTENDED TO GIVE TO HIS COLLEAGUES. THE
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STATEMENT INDICATED THAT THE UK CONTINUED TO BE

CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE AREA AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE UK PROPOSED BOTH COORDINATED BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMISSION ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. NO SPECIFIC FIGURES WERE MENTIONED, BUT MAITLAND DID SAY THE UK HAD BEEN ABLE TO FIND ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THEIR AID BUDGET. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT EC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CHEDYSSON TOLD THE MEMBER STATES THAT THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING FOOD AID AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS FOR ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY CHEYSSON'S OFFICE WHICH ALSO NOTES THAT THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION WILL PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO THESE TWO ACP COUNTRIES.

2. WITH REGARD TO ANGOLA, THE BRITISH VIEW WAS THAT ASSISTANCE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GIVEN TO ANGOLA IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER DESTABILIZING THE AREA. OUR SOURCE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF LIME CONVENTION STATUS IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION (REFTEL). WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY OUR UK PERM DEL SOURCE THAT CHEYSSON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE ANGOLANS AND THAT THE ANGOLANS HAD INFORMALLY INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO EVENTUALLY JOIN THE LOME CONVENTION. CHEYSSON, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, SAID HE EXPECTED MOVEMENT IN THIS REGARD "BEFORE LONG". (A SOURCE IN CHEYSSON'S CABINET, HOWEVER, WHILE NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE CONTACTS, DENIED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD HAD ANY RECENT TALKS WITH THE ANGOLANS.) OUR UK SOURCE ADDED THAT NO DIRECT LINK HAD BEEN MADE BETWEEN THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA AND INCREASED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE NOTING THAT A DECISION HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN THAT FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES WERE TO BE CONSIDERED QUALIFIED FOR LOME CONVENTION MEMBERSHIP.

3. WITHIN THE EC POLITICAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE AFRICA EXPERTS GROUP WILL MEET IN LUXEMBOURG ON MARCH 8-9 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN ZAMBIA, ZAIRE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND ANGOLA, AND IN PARTICULAR THE GERMAN PROPOSAL TO ELABORATE A SPECIFIC EUROPEAN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHERN AFRICA. HINTON

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